

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO ALICE HOEPPNER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career has come to an end. Mrs. Alice Hoeppner, of Lexington, MO, retired on December 31, 2005, from her position as deputy county clerk for Lafayette County.

Mrs. Hoeppner first entered public service while she was attending Lexington High School, Lexington, MO. On July 12, 1948, she began working for the probate court in the Lafayette County Courthouse. Later she joined the County Clerk's office on a part-time basis.

In 1950, Alice married Bennie Hoeppner, and in 1951, she resigned her job to raise her children, Patricia, Steve and Tony.

In September 1974, then-Lafayette County Clerk Edgar Oetting asked her to work for him full-time as the deputy county clerk. She remained full-time, also serving under County Clerk Linda Nolting and under the current County Clerk, Linda Niendick.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Alice Hoeppner has dedicated herself to serving Lafayette County. I know the Members of the House will join me in wishing her all the best as she moves on to the next step in her life.

HONORING SERGEANT JEREMIAH BOEHMER

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of SGT Jeremiah Boehmer, who died February 5, 2006, while serving in Iraq.

Every Member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, SGT Jeremiah Boehmer lived that commitment to our country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Jeremiah's compassion and service. Jeremiah, who represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the military continues to inspire all those who knew him and many who did not. Our Nation and the State of South Dakota are far better places because of his service, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his devotion to our country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of SGT Jeremiah

Boehmer. His commitment to and sacrifice for our Nation will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO ODELL BARRY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize a Coloradan who has made a substantial impact on our State while serving as a role model for achievement in the African-American community. I am proud to acknowledge the accomplishments of Mr. Odell Barry and to congratulate him on his recent election to the Ford-Warren Library's "Blacks in Colorado" Hall of Fame. It is a well-bestowed honor, and befitting the life and works of a wonderful man.

Originally from Ohio, Odell Barry began his Colorado experience in a way that ensures the admiration and affection of many of our residents—as a Denver Bronco. Playing in 1964 and 1965, he still holds a place in the Broncos' record books with the second-most kickoff return yards in a season. Mr. Barry's athletic accomplishments are the envy of many, and I am sure he will not mind my saying that I am old enough to recall them.

After his retirement from professional football, Odell involved himself heavily in the civic affairs of Northglenn, CO, a community in my district. He built a successful business with his wife, Glenda, and raised his family. These years were a preamble to his historic 1980 election as the first African-American mayor of Northglenn and the second African-American mayor of a major metropolitan city—after Mayor Penfield Tate of Boulder—in Colorado. As mayor of Northglenn, Odell Barry helped to steer the city through major commercial and economic growth at a difficult time in the history of Colorado's economy. His open and warm-hearted style won many admirers and he was particularly committed to improving recreational opportunities for young people. He was instrumental in advocating transportation improvements, including construction of the new Denver International Airport.

Odell was the first African-American citizen to become a charter member of Rotary International, the first African-American citizen to become president of the Colorado Civil Defense Association, the chair of the Colorado Economic Development Commission, and a crucial advocate for building, and bringing a professional baseball team, the Colorado Rockies, to Colorado.

I have no doubt that Odell and Glenda will continue to accomplish great things, serving as role models for Americans of all ages and colors. In recognition of his latest achievement and for his already secure place in Colorado history, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Odell Barry and congratulating him on becoming the newest addition to the Ford-Warren Library's esteemed "Blacks in Colorado" Hall of Fame.

RECALLING THE TRAGIC DAY OF FEBRUARY 24, 1996

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on February 24th the Cuban people commemorate a glorious and tragic date in the history of Cuba. The 1895 war of independence began exactly 111 years ago; the Cry of Baire constitutes one of the most heroic acts of the Cuban people. Intimately connected with this date is the heroism of Marti, Gomez, Maceo, Banderas, and the thousands of freedom fighters known as mambises who shall forever ennoble the Cuban nationality.

Tragically, February 24th will also be forever connected with the murders which took place on that date ten years ago. The Cuban tyrant, ultimately insulted by the courage demonstrated by the Brothers to the Rescue when they dropped pamphlets and other pieces of paper over Havana with pro-democracy slogans and copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ordered the murder of the men and women who were going to fly on February 24th in civilian planes carrying out humanitarian missions for Brothers to the Rescue.

The Cuban tyrant prepared his murders well. An agent of his by the name of Roque, who had occasionally flown for the Brothers to the Rescue organization, was ordered to return the day before to Cuba. Roque was going to publicly declare after the murders of February 24th that he was a survivor from the mission and that the humanitarian group's planes were taking arms to "Concilio Cubano", a coalition of dissident organizations inside Cuba which had announced its intention to host a public meeting in Havana on February 24th and whose membership was brutally repressed by the dictatorship. Roque would also announce that the planes had been shot down over Cuban waters.

We all know that Pablo Morales, Armando Alejandro Jr., Mario de la Peña, and Carlos Costa were brutally murdered on February 24, 1996. I am sure that those four martyrs of freedom, peace, and patriotism will be duly memorialized in the democratic Cuba of tomorrow, as they are in South Florida today.

The intervention of destiny saved the third Brothers to the Rescue plane which flew on February 24, 1996. That intervention of the imponderable made it possible for the world and for history to know that the planes were shot down over international waters, while engaged in a peaceful and humanitarian mission.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember the four martyrs from the Brothers to the Rescue, let us remember all the political prisoners, and let us remember the countless men and women who have given their best years, and often their lives, for the freedom of Cuba. My colleagues, this February 24th, we must recommit ourselves to the cause of freedom and liberty for

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